

WHEREVER YOU GOT YOUR START



In spite of phenomenal summer weather and my husband's commitment to watering regularly, the garden really was pathetic this year. The beets never grew any bigger than the size of my middle finger (although the radishes filled out quite nicely), the spinach bolted after only two or three pickings and the peppers failed to come through in spite of some impressive blossoms. The exceptions to this situation were the tomatoes and vine crops.

In early August we began reaping basket after basket of luscious red Beefsteak, Sweet Million and Early Girls; daily supper preparation included plucking crisp, sweet cucumbers from vines draped over the backyard trellis. While impressive, it was the size and quality of the spaghetti squash that pleased me the most.

Most interesting, though, is the fact that we didn't even plant those seeds. If truth be known, we didn't plant the strongest, most heavily laden and most vigorous of the tomato plants either. Cleaning out the dismal bean, lettuce and beet patch earlier in the season I noticed the two tiny tomato plants and one equally nondescript vine (variety unknown).

"May as well give them a chance,"

I muttered to myself. "Nothing else is doing any better."

Over lunch with friends today, we discussed the influence of positive parenting on the future of children. While agreeing that a strong and positive family setting is an indisputable blessing, we all thought of examples of some of the strongest people who have come from homes that could be described as a human "compost pile." Like my volunteer seedlings, they flourished in spite of their circumstances.

"I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit..." (John 15:5)

Remember it's not so much about where we came from but about where our roots are established.